

## **Action Packed and Ready to Go**

A top ten list of things to keep in mind when designing Action Projects for Students

**1. Give learners control.**

Taking action should be something learners choose to do.

**2. Empower learners.**

Make sure solutions are actions learners can take on their own or in small groups. Help learners build a sense of self-confidence in their effectiveness as a citizen.

**3. Ask what they think.**

Learners need to explore why an action is important to them personally. Talking about opinions and values will help learners understand how their beliefs influence their decisions.

**4. Keep it close to home.**

Young learners will feel successful taking actions that affect their homes and classrooms while older learners may be able to take action that affects their communities. Action should be relevant to a learner's life.

**5. Get families involved.**

What we do is often influenced by the people around us. Learners will have more success if their actions are supported by their families.

**6. Teach skills.**

Before a learner can successfully take action, they need to understand the skills required.

**7. Ask Questions.**

Encourage learners to think about the positive and negative consequences of action. What would happen if...? Encourage learners to use critical thinking and decision making skills.

**8. Practice Planning**

What are realistic goals? When should action take place? What do we need to take action? Help learners effectively plan for success.

**9. Emphasize choices and respect the choices learners make.**

You can't do everything, but you can do something. Allow learners to make choices about the types of action they can take based on home, family, and school situations.

**10. Connect spaces and places back to the learner's everyday choices and life.**

If action is taking place at a specific location (park, field trip, etc.), how does that action relate back to a learner's every day life? Why is it important for them to participate?